

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MANAGU 01498 172020Z

64

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 EB-07 AID-05

AGR-05 COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SEC-01 /068 W

----- 060972

R 172000Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6741

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USIA WASHDC

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MANAGUA 1498

USIA FOR ILA, IOP

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, NU, HO

SUBJECT: REACTION TO UNITED BRAND'S BRIBE SCANDAL IN HONDURAS

1. UNITED BRANDS BRIBE SCANDAL CONTINUES TO RECEIVE CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY IN NICARAGUAN MEDIA WITH DAILY SPATE OF WIRE SERVICE STORIES. HOWEVER, GON OFFICIALS, ACUTELY AWARE OF PRESIDENT SOMOZA'S RELUCTANCE TO EMBARRASS FELLOW CA CHIEF OF STATE AND THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL "COMPADRE" RELATIONSHIP WITH LOPEZ ARELLANO, HAVE CAREFULLY AVOIDED COMMENT ON THE SITUATION. ATTEMPTS TO DRAW OUT MINISTER OF ECONOMY ON SUBJECT DURING PRESS INTERVIEW YIELDED LITTLE MORE THAN RESTATEMENT OF NICARAGUAN POSITION ON UNION OF BANANA EXPORTING COUNTRIES (UPEB).

2. AS FOR TWO MAJOR DAILIES, SOMOZA-OWNED NOVEDADES COVERAGE CONTINUES VERY LOW KEY EXCLUSIVELY USING WIRE SERVICE STORIES WHILE LA PRENSA, WHICH HAS GENERALLY PRINTED ONLY INNOCUOUS, APOLITICAL COMMENTARY ON EDITORIAL PAGE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MANAGU 01498 172020Z

SINCE CENSORSHIP IMPOSED THREE MONTHS AGO, CARRIED ONE

EDITORIAL ON HONDURAS SCANDAL WRITTEN BY SOCIAL CHRISTIAN LEADER
ROGER MIRANDA. THIS TRUNCATED PIECE CONFUSED STANDARD
FRUIT, WHICH HAS A BANANA OPERATION IN NICARAGUA, WITH
UNITED BRANDS, WHICH DOES NOT, AND SUGGESTED THAT WHOLE AFFAIR
WAS MULTINATIONAL CORPORATION PLOT TO SUBVERT HONDURAS' AGRARIAN
REFORM PROGRAM. AT LEAST TWO OTHER WIRE SERVICE STORIES HAVE
OVER PAST FEW DAYS BEEN PROMINENTLY PLACED IN LOCAL PRESS
CRITICIZING ROLE OF MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS, AN ISSUE WHICH
HAS NOT UP TO NOW EXCITED MUCH CONCERN AMONG NICARAGUANS
AND IS SELDOM RAISED.

3. NEW BUSINESS ORIENTED WEEKLY LA NACION'S LATEST ISSUE
CARRIED ORIGINAL WALL STREET JOURNAL STORY ALONG WITH
PHOTOGRAPHS OF GENERAL SOMOZA WITH DECEASED UNITED BRANDS
PRESIDENT ELI BLACK WHICH WERE TAKEN DURING BLACK'S VISIT TO
NICARAGUAN IN 1973 TO MAKE A DONATION FOR EARTHQUAKE ASSISTANCE.
SHELTON

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BRIBERY, PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANAGU01498
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750135-0843
From: MANAGUA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750442/aaaabnbd.tel
Line Count: 78
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 SEP 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REACTION TO UNITED BRAND'S BRIBE SCANDAL IN HONDURAS
TAGS: PFOR, NU, HO, UNITED BRANDS, (LOPEZ ARELLANO, OSWALDO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006